ABSOLUTE MARTIAN MANHUNTER

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CAMP
RODRÍGUEZ

THE SUPER/BAT FAMILIES UNITE FOR THEIR MOST EPIC ADVENTURE YET!

ON SALE IN APRIL

BATMAN • SUPERMAN

WORLD'S FINEST #50

OVERSIZE 40-PAGE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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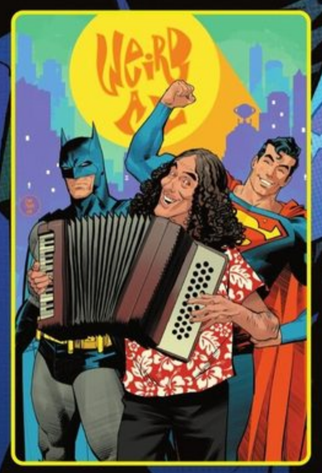


PLUS: DON'T MISS THE "WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC VARIANT COVER!

WRITTEN BY MARK WAID
ART BY ADRÍAN GUTIÉRREZ AND
THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF DAN MORA

LOOK AT THIS THING.

WHUMP

REMINDS ME OF THESE BEETLES WE HAD IN MY HOMETOWN.

THEY WERE BROWN AND SHINY AND HAD BEEN AROUND FOREVER, BUT ALL DIED OUT WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

SEE, THE *BOY* BEETLES KEPT CONFUSING DISCARDED *BEER BOTTLES* FOR *GIRL* BEETLES. BROWN AND SHINY, *RIGHT?* IT LOOKED LIKE LOVE TO THEM.

SO THEY WASTED ALL THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TRYING TO MATE WITH SHARDS OF BROKEN GLASS.

FBI

THESE GUYS'D BEEN GOING ON JUST FINE FOR A MILLION *MILLION* YEARS PROBABLY, SECURE IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD.

FBI

UNTIL SOMETHING THEY COULDN'T UNDERSTAND *FELL FROM THE SKY...* AND THE WORLD SHATTERED.

FBI

YOU EVER FEEL LIKE THAT, JOHN? LIKE A BEETLE IN LOVE WITH A BEER BOTTLE?

TAKE *COVER,* MARCO.

Starlight BAR

CLOSE

Starlight Motel

SSSSSSSSHHHH

AFTER THIS, I SWEAR I'M QUITTING DRINKING.

KA-CHOW KACHOW

BADUM

AAAAAAAHH

K-A-CHOW KA-CHOW

KA-CHOW

KACH

I GUESS WHAT NAGS AT ME IS... IF WE CAN BE WRONG ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE *THAT*... SOMETHING LIKE *LOVE*...

...WHAT *ELSE* COULD WE BE WRONG ABOUT?

I'm serious.

CRASH CRASH

BANG BANG BANG

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

SSSSSSSSH

FBI

THUD

KA-CHOW

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

KA-CHOW

BADOOM

BOOM

BLAM BLAM

KA-CHOW KA-CHOW KA-CHOW KA-CHOW

CHOP CHOP

FBI

BLAM BLAM CRACK

CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP

BRA TAT BRAT BRAT TAT TAT

BB LA LA N

WAAAOOOOO

CRASH

WHOMP

PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BU

UGH!

WHO IS THIS GUY?

I'M RAINBOW. *UNCLE SAM* SENT ME.

EVEN AFTER ALL WE'VE PUT IT THROUGH, IT'S STILL TAKING THE ***ENTIRE U.S. PRISON SYSTEM*** JUST TO HOLD IT DOWN!

EXACTLY. EXACTLY WHY WE HAVE TO LEARN ***EVERY-THING*** WE CAN!

WHAT DOES IT ***WANT?*** WHAT IS IT ***CAPABLE*** OF? WHERE DOES IT ***COME FROM?*** ARE THERE MORE? CAN WE WEAPONIZE IT?

PART OF THE PROBLEM IS IT'S SO ALIEN, WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. WE'LL HAVE TO TRANSLATE... ***VIOLENTLY.***

WHATEVER IT TAKES. TURN UP THE ***ABSORB-ACON!***

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT SOME ANSWERS.

AARGH

SO HAPPY HAPPY...

I AM SO HAPPY!

I'M LUCKY TO

I AM LUCKY TO HAVE A SON LIKE TYLER!

SLICE

SLICE

GET AWAY FROM ME!

SLICE

FEELING PRETTY GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF, HUH, JOHN?

BOOM

FBI

FWHSH

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS INSANE VET'S ACID-WAR FLASH-BACK, ONE MAN AGAINST A PSYCHEDELIC ARMY.

WZZZZ

MOTEL BAR

WZZ

BLAM BLAM

WZZ

WZZZ WZZZ WZZZ WZZZ WZZZ

CRASH

WZZ

CRASH

RUSH OF ADRENALINE, ENDORPHINS, DOPAMINE, PRIDE...

...THIS IS WHY PEOPLE FIGHT WARS IN THE FIRST PLACE. THIS HIGH YOU'RE FEELING.

CRASH

MARCO!

FBI

WAR'S A DRUG.

Marco...

FBI

BUT THE COME-DOWN'S A BITCH.

LISTEN, *man*, I CAN *EMPATHIZE!*

YOU THINK I HAVEN'T COMMUNED WITH *GIGANTIC GREEN THOUGHTS?* FILLED MYSELF UP WITH SMOKE AND SACRED *POTENT MOLECULES?*

I'VE BEEN *EXPANDING* MY *CONSCIOUSNESS* SINCE THE '60s, BROTHER! HOW DO YOU THINK I *GOT* LIKE THIS?

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

I'VE DANCED ALONG THE EDGE OF REALITY, THE *VERY* EDGE, RIGHT WHERE IT TURNS INTO *DREAM.*

I *GET* IT.

BANG BANG

BUT THE THING ABOUT ANY TRIP IS, AT SOME POINT--

--IT *ENDS.*

AND YOU'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO *REALITY.*

HE MAKES A GOOD POINT.

STAY BACK! ARE YOU... are you with the *White Martian?*

I WORK FOR THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE. FOR THE WAY THINGS *WERE, ARE,* AND ALWAYS *WILL BE,* JOHNNY. THE INVISIBLE EMPIRE CALLED CONSENSUS...

WOW, THAT WAS OVER FAST. NOT MUCH OF A FIGHTER, ARE YA?

AND YOU... YOU AND THAT *ONE-EYED MIND#@%$ER* WE GOT LOCKED UP IN THE BAY...

...YOU'RE A *THREAT* TO ALL THAT.

WHAT *IS* THIS, LOWE?

IT'S A *METAPHOR*, SIR.

IT SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF *ORIGIN STORY.*

IT'S A **ROMANCE!**

I don't get it.

IT'S A **TRAGEDY!**

IT'S A **FEEL-GOOD STORY!**

It's a piece of @€%#!

IT'S A **COMEDY!**

IT'S A **MASTER-PIECE!**

A METAPHOR?

"METAPHOR FOR *WHAT?*"

CHOCO CHISPI

EXTRA SUGAR

TOTAL FAT 80%

I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU

I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU

HUNGRY, *hon?*

"SEARCH A CENTURY AND YOU WON'T FIND THEM."

THOSE *LINES* THAT LOOK SO BRIGHT AND CLEAR ON THE MAP-- THE *LAND* GIVES THEM *NO* ACKNOWLEDGMENT OR ACCOMMODATION.

Listen... JUST *LISTEN.* I'M NOT WHAT YOU THINK. IT'S NOT--

JOHN...

BORDERS ARE STORIES OLD MEN TELL EACH OTHER. THEY STINK OF PIPE SMOKE AND ARE OBVIOUS FABRICATIONS.

YOU'RE BEING MANIPULATED. LIED TO.

BORDERS ARE A LIE.

"BUT CROSS THOSE LIE-LINES WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR POWER...?

"WITHOUT SUBMITTING TO THEIR AUTHORITY?"

JOHN...

Well-- *TERRIBLE* FATES AWAIT YOU...

...A *DARK CLOUD* WILL FOLLOW YOU FOR ALL YOUR DAYS.

AND THE LAND WILL-- FOR *YOU*-- BE A PLACE OF EXTREMES, EXCLUSIVELY. A LAND OF *FIRE AND ICE.*

DON'T DO THIS. I HAVE A FAMILY. I-I-I WORK FOR THE *FBI*--

CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK

WHERE WAS I GOING WITH ALL THIS? *Oh, right.* ***BORDERS.***

BORDERS ARE A *LIE.*

BUT SOME LIES YOU *LISTEN* TO, DAMMIT!

JOHN!

BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA

THAT LOOKED PAINFUL.

HOW YOU FEELING, PAL?

YOU'RE *FULL* OF SURPRISES, JOHNNY!

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?

SOMETHING I HEARD ONCE, THAT JUST CAME BACK TO ME.

WE'RE ALL JUST MEANINGLESS ACCUMULATIONS OF *NOTHING.*

THAT'S ONE OF MY *FAVORITES.*

I THINK I'M *FINALLY* BEGINNING TO SEE WHAT IT *MEANS.*

WHERE ARE YOU *GOING,* JOHN?

ROUTE 66

I'M GOING TO GET THE MARTIAN. I KNOW A SHORT-CUT.

NO. IT KNOWS A SHORTCUT. YOU'RE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS.

Motel

THE CAR IS AN EXTENSION OF MY WILL.

I FEEL EVERY ATOM OF IT DOWN IN THE TIP OF MY TOE.

LEFT, THEN RIGHT, THEN LEFT AGAIN, AND THEN A HALF DOZEN DIRECTIONS WE DON'T HAVE NAMES FOR.

YOU'VE ALWAYS FOLLOWED ORDERS. AND LOOK WHAT IT'S GOTTEN YOU.

YOU'VE LOST EVERYTHING. YOUR HOUSE, YOUR JOB, YOUR MARRIAGE, YOUR SANITY, YOUR SON... EVERYTHING.

WE BREAK THE MIND/BODY BARRIER AND LEAVE PHYSICAL REALITY IN OUR INCOMPREHENSIBLE DUST...

AND YET HERE WE ARE, FORDING STREAMS OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND BLACK, BLACK GRAVITY. RUNNING TO THE RESCUE.

GOOD LITTLE SOLDIER.

THEY'RE KEEPING THE MARTIAN IN THE CENTER OF A BLACK HOLE.

YOU'RE MORE TRAPPED THAN IT IS, AMIGO.

A PLACE WHERE THE USUAL LAWS DON'T APPLY-- CONSTITUTIONAL, PHYSICAL, MORAL.

WHERE THE HELL DID YOU COME FROM?

THAT'S HIM! THE MARTIAN COLLABORATOR!

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF-- YOU'RE TRYING TO DESTROY ME.

I ALSO SAID I'D NEVER LIE TO YOU. AND I NEVER HAVE.

A PLACE WHERE ANYTHING GOES.

JOHN! BROKEN

WOUNDED

INCOMPLETE!

Well, ISN'T THAT SWELL! THANKS FOR SAVING US THE TROUBLE!

WELCOME TO NIHILO BAY, TRAITOR. YOU JUST WON YOURSELF A *LIFETIME* STAY, ON UNCLE SAM.

OH WELL, I TRIED. TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW.

THE THING ABOUT SOLDIERS, JOHN? GOOD OR BAD, MOST OF THEM *DIE.*

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

I DON'T *CARE* IF I DIE.

BLAM

CHOK

THWAKK

WEAK
WOUNDED
FALLING APART.

MUST GO, PARTNER.

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE! NOTHING ESCAPES NIHILO BAY. NOT MATTER, NOT LIGHT. NOT EVEN INFORMATION.

PARTNER!

JUST HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FIRST.

WHOK

BUT THE MARTIAN DOESN'T SEE IT THAT WAY.

NO!

BLACK

WHITE

THINKING COMPRESSES SPECTRUM OF POSSIBILITY TO TWO.

EVEN FOR US, EVERY HOLE HAS TWO SIDES.

BLACK

WHITE

OTHER-WISE.

INFINITE SIDES. HOLE IS WHOLE IS HOLY.

THE MARTIAN REACHES OUT, AND TURNS THE COLOR KNOB OF CREATION...

...FROM BLACK TO WHITE.

WOW, THAT WAS PRETTY COOL. NOT THAT IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

AND WE'RE SPAT OUT SOME-WHERE ON THE FAR SHORES OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS.

GUESS WE'RE A THREESOME NOW, HUH?

DO YOU LIKE IT, HONEY?

ARE YOU HAPPY?

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU HAPPY?

I would do anything to make you happy.

writer
Deniz Camp

art
Javier Rodriguez

Martian Manhunter created by
Joseph Samachson and Joe Certa

letters
Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou

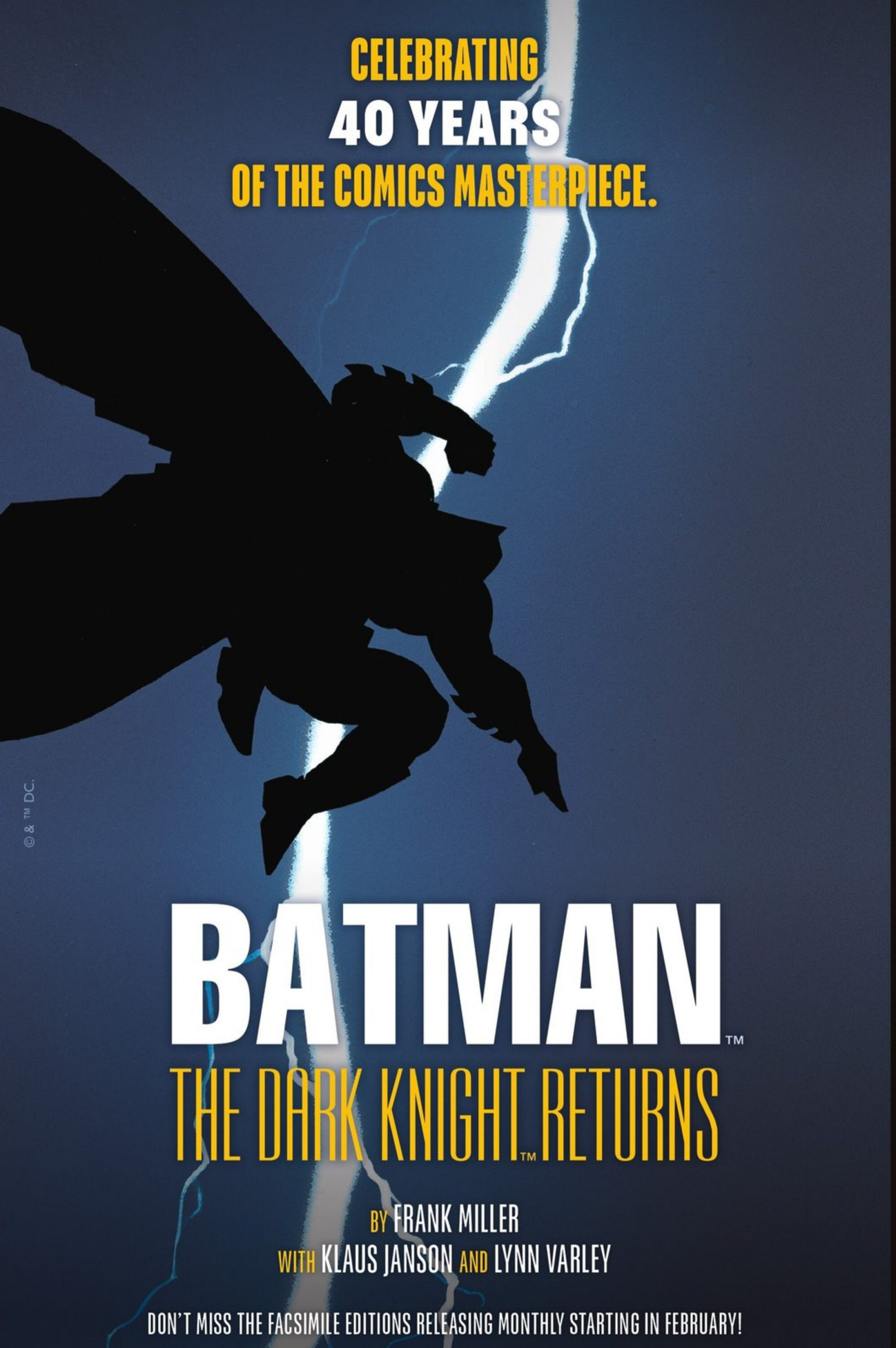
cover
Javier Rodriguez

variant covers
Declan Shalvey
Werther Dell'Edera
James Harren

associate editor
Sabrina Futch

editor
Katie Kubert

To be CONTINUED.



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ARTIST, *BATMAN: H2SH*

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"IT ABSOLUTELY BLEW MY MIND. FRANK MILLER AUTHENTICATED THE DARK KNIGHT AS THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE DC FIRMAMENT."
MARK WAID | WRITER, *ACTION COMICS*

BATMAN 40 THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

SUPERGIRL WOMAN OF TOMORROW

INTERVIEW WITH TOM KING

Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow has quickly become a modern classic now headed to the big screen this June! A 2023 Hugo Award finalist and one of the New York Public Library's Best Books for Adults in 2022, the character-defining sci-fi/fantasy masterpiece continues to reach both dedicated comics fans and first-time readers. Writer Tom King reflects on the book's emotional depth, its inspirations, and the transcendent visual world artist Bilquis Evely and colorist Matheus Lopes brought to life.

How would you describe *Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow*?

Tom King: It was a story very much inspired by old Westerns and ancient literature. It's about a young girl named Ruthye. Her father is killed and she's trying to seek revenge for that killing. Supergirl finds Ruthye and they find something in each other, a loss they've both experienced. They go on this mission and Ruthye thinks she's going on a mission of revenge and Supergirl thinks she's going off to save this young girl from her emotions, that she's just going to bring justice and not revenge. As the two of them go through the trials and tribulations of space, they learn the other's perspective. Supergirl learns that pain could lead to anger, and Ruthye learns how anger could lead to redemption.

Bilquis has multiple talents and they're all highlighted in this book. One of them is world-building. No one makes these beautiful backgrounds that seem to come alive, that seem to pour out from a dream you never knew you had. Another thing she brings is such emotional depth to her character work.

We can't talk about Supergirl without talking about the amazing art. What was the experience like seeing the visuals come together?

TK: I've worked with some of the best artists in comics, and lord knows Bilquis Evely is one of them. I had no idea the transcendence that she, along with Matheus Lopes, would put into those pages. They elevated this book in a way that few artists have done in the history of comics.

I mean if you look at the final cover, it's Supergirl standing on a beach staring out, which is basically the whole comic in her expression, and no one puts more lines in anything like Bilquis does, but there's like seven lines that define her face. In those seven lines, you see the entire history of this character. You see her family dying, you see the hope of her father pushing her away. You see the conflict, the ability to turn all that pain into hope into love, all in one image, all in seven lines. I mean, it's a miracle.

There are so many ways to experience this story. Let's talk about it!

TK: The magic of this book is that you can give it to anybody. You could give it to someone who's read comics for 40 years and knows this character, knows how honest we are to her, and you could give it to someone who's never read a panel of a comic book. DC Comics has been kind enough to put it in a lot of places that new readers can find it. If you want the whole big experience, there's a beautiful oversize hardcover which has extra material of my scripts and extra art. There's a softcover of the book where you could read it and disappear from the world for a while, go into your adventure that'll make you both laugh and cry and be mad and have fun.

There's also a DC Compact Comics edition. It looks like a small book, sits beautifully on your shelf. You can pick one up from the shop, hand it to your daughter, and suddenly she has something to read in the car on the way home. Next thing you know, she's a fan of this book and a fan of the medium.

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